

Collection #  
SC 3273

## ERA INDIANA MATERIALS ADDITION, CA. 1970S

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Processed by

Alysha Zemanek  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: Ca. 1970s

PROVENANCE: Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Cambridge, MA; May  
2004

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS: ERA Indiana Materials M 1208; Indiana NOW Collection M  
0583

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2004.0363

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Although the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and subsequent years, both houses of Congress did not pass the ERA until 1972. When the amendment was sent out to the states with a ratification deadline of March 22, 1979, thirty states ratified within the first year. However, in this time, opposition to the amendment also began to organize and solidify, most notably from Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum/STOP ERA. Hence, the needed eight more ratifications trickled in.

In August 1973, Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment (HERA) was established to stir up public support and lobby lawmakers to pass the amendment. The organization disbanded in 1976, as publicity and advocacy efforts were taken over by operatives for the National Organization for Women. The campaign was successful, and the ERA was ratified by the state of Indiana on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1977, bringing the count to thirty five states. Chances of getting three more states by the deadline looked grim as tides turned more conservative, so NOW and other pro-ERA groups were able to lobby Congress for an extension. Congress granted an extension until June 30, 1982 and pro-ERA groups re-focused on targeting three more states for ratification.

Sources:

“The History Behind the Equal Rights Amendment”

<http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/history.htm>

Ruth Adams Obituary. [http://www.brown-forward.com/memsol.cgi?user\\_id=1229243](http://www.brown-forward.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=1229243)

Ancestry.com

Materials in the collection

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection addition contains materials related to the campaign for ERA ratification in Indiana, including a chart of ERA status in unratified states, information regarding the pro-ERA rally and vigil held in Indianapolis in January 1977, a letter describing a five-part action plan, a list of legislative and newspaper campaign targets, and a list of Indiana House and Senate representatives.

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ERA Indiana materials addition, ca. 1970s

CONTAINER

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